

A copy of the marked up amended claim is attached to this response showing the changes as set forth in amended 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

REMARKS

Claims 2-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 7 is amended with the subject matter of claim 1 and claim 1, accordingly, is canceled. Claims 2-6 are amended to correct their dependencies. No new matter is added.

CLAIMS 2-7 CONTAIN PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kinjo (U.S. Patent No. 5,289,227). The rejection of claim 1 is moot in view of its cancellation. However, to the extent applicable to claims 2-5 and amended independent claim 7, this rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Kinjo does not disclose or suggest a camera apparatus comprising, an imaging device, means for detecting information relating to the movement of an object on the basis of an output of the imaging device, exposure determination means for determining the exposure, and exposure correction means for making exposure correction to the exposure determined by the exposure determination means on the basis of the detected information relating to the movement of the object, wherein the information relating to the movement of the object is motion vectors respectively corresponding to a plurality of detecting areas set in an imaging area of the imaging device, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 7.

Kinjo discloses a method of automatically controlling taking exposure and focusing in a camera and a method of controlling printing exposure. The device includes a camera apparatus having an imaging device 20. A position/distance

detecting circuit 26 and main object detecting circuit 30 detect information relating to the movement of an object on the basis of the output of the imaging device 20. The main object detecting circuit outputs the distance to the main object to the lens setting unit 32 and the taking exposure control circuit 34. Exposure control circuit 34 controls the diaphragm of lens 33 with diaphragm driver 47 and controls shutter with the shutter speed driver 48. The lens setting unit 32 controls the lens 33 whereby the lens 33 has the proper focus for the distance determined to the main object.

However, Kinjo only designates various distance measuring points as having "motion" by performing a threshold scalar comparison. Specifically, if $(Dj(t) - Dmin) < E$, then "motion" is detected. See col. 7, lines 1-6. At no point in Kinjo is it disclosed or suggested that "motion" is determined according to "vectors".

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Kinjo does not disclose nor disclose all the features of the claimed invention.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 7. Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5 and, to the extent applicable, independent claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

The Office Action rejects claims 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kinjo further in view of Nakano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,043,816).

Nakano et al. discloses an electronic still camera wherein a plurality of images are temporarily stored in a semiconductor memory 22. A shutter control circuit 14 controls the auto-focusing mechanism and automatic exposure mechanism to adjust the focusing and exposure. The images stored in the semiconductor memory 22 are displayed in a monitor 34. See abstract, col. 4, lines 20-23, and col. 5, lines 56-60, for

example. The photographer judges the quality of the stored images by depressing forward or backward keys on a key input unit 35. See col. 8, lines 3-7. The photographer may also "correct" an image by selecting correcting mode functions. See col. 7, lines 48-60, for example. After images have been confirmed by the photographer, it can select a desired image to finally recorded onto a floppy disk 28. See col. 8, lines 23-46, for example.

Images stored in the semiconductor memory 22 can also be evaluated according to "a degree of movement" using a judging circuit 20. See col. 13, lines 59-65, for example. The judging circuit 20 detects moving vectors of the respected images to obtain "a degree of movement". The image having the lowest degree of movement is reported to the memory control circuit 23. See col. 14, lines 17-24, for example.

In summary, Nakano et al. is directed to an electronic still camera having a semiconductor memory, and recording the selected images on a floppy disk. Images stored in the semiconductor memory 22 are not exposure control adjusted for motion. Only after the images are stored in the semiconductor memory 22, are they evaluated for motion. In fact, Nakano et al. does not actually control the exposure of the initial image, but, rather "corrects" the images after they are captured simply by selecting the image having the lowest "degree of motion". In contrast, Applicants' claimed invention controls or adjusts the exposure rather than simply correcting the images after exposure has been initiated.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Kinjo and Nakano et al., individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter in Applicants' claimed invention. Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that one of

ordinary skill would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied references, since the references are directed to two completely different camera systems having non-compatible recording media (e.g., film versus floppy disk) for manipulating and storing the pictures taken.

Claim 6 depends from claim 7. Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims contain patentable subject matter. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance is earnestly solicited.

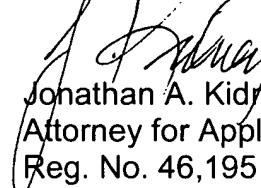
Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge

payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to
Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Marked-Up Copy of Amended Claims
Petition for Extension of Time (one month)

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

2. (Twice Amended) The camera apparatus according to claim [1] 7, wherein the exposure correction means corrects a shutter speed on the basis of the detected information relating to the movement of the object.

3. (Twice Amended) The camera apparatus according to claim [1] 7, wherein the exposure correction means corrects a shutter speed and a diaphragm on the basis of the detected information relating to the movement of the object.

4. (Twice Amended) The camera apparatus according to claim [1] 7, wherein the exposure correction means corrects a shutter speed and a diaphragm and controls a gain on the basis of the detected information relating to the movement of the object.

5. (Twice Amended) The camera apparatus according to claim [1] 7, wherein the exposure correction means corrects a shutter speed and a diaphragm and controls a gain and a strobo flashing in a case where a shutter is released on the basis of the detected information relating to the movement of the object.

6. (Twice Amended) The camera apparatus according to claim [1] 7, further comprising

means for temporarily storing a plurality of images picked up by the imaging device before and after a shutter is released, and retaining, when the shutter is released, only the picked-up image in which the movement of the object is the smallest out of the picked-up images temporarily stored before and after the shutter is released.

7. (Twice Amended) [The camera apparatus according to claim 1]) A camera apparatus comprising:

an imaging device:

means for detecting information relating to the movement of an object on the basis of an output of the imaging device;
exposure determination means for determining the exposure; and
exposure correction means for making exposure correction to the exposure determined by the exposure determination means on the basis of the detected information relating to the movement of the object,

wherein the information relating to the movement of the object is motion vectors respectively corresponding to a plurality of detecting areas set in an imaging area of the imaging device.